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1903.
Jan. 29. Of 11th mag. Dimmer than *S Tauri* in the same field of view.
Feb. 1. About 10.2 mag., but dimmer than s.
10. 9.5 mag., brighter than s.
12. Not far from 9th mag.
19. Brighter than 8th, probably 7.8 mag.
24. Brighter than 8th.
March 3. Not so bright, probably of 8th mag.
6. Probably of 8th mag. Half moon near.
8. Probably of 8th mag. Moonlight.

S Ursæ Minoris.

1902. Date of expected maximum, May 9, 1902.
April 8. 9th mag.
9. 9th mag.
19. 8.5 mag.
26. 8th mag.
May 1. 8.5 mag.
8. 8.5 mag.
10. 8.5 mag.
14. 8.5 mag.

T Ursæ Majoris.

1902.
March 30. Equal to *k* of 9th mag.
April 8. About 8.8 mag.
13. Of 8th mag.
19. About two tenths brighter than 8th mag.
26. About two tenths brighter than 8th mag.
May 1. About two tenths brighter than 8th mag. Before the date of maximum brightness, May 21st, it had gone out of view.

PLANETARY PHENOMENA FOR MAY AND JUNE, 1903.

By Malcolm McNeill.

PHASES OF THE MOON, PACIFIC TIME.

First Quarter,	May	3,	$11^h 26^m$ P.M.	First Quarter,	June	2,	$5^h 24^m$ A.M.
Full Moon,	"	11,	5 18 A.M.	Full Moon,	"	9,	7 8 P.M.
Last Quarter,	"	19,	7 18 A.M.	Last Quarter,	"	17,	10 44 P.M.
New Moon,	"	26,	2 50 P.M.	New Moon,	"	24,	10 11 P.M.

The Sun reaches the solstice and summer begins June 22d, 7 A. M., Pacific time.

Mercury presents the best aspect of the year for naked-eye visibility during May. It is an evening star, and comes to its greatest east elongation on May 10th. It is then 21° 31′ east of the Sun, a distance about 4° greater than at the east elongation of January; but it is also several degrees north of the Sun, and this increases the interval between the setting of the Sun and the planet. For the first half of the month this interval is from an hour and a half to an hour and three quarters, and the planet can be easily seen on any clear evening in the twilight. After that *Mercury* rapidly approaches the Sun, and comes to inferior conjunction on June 3d. During the remainder of June the planet is a morning star, and comes to greatest west elongation on June 27th. It then rises rather more than an hour before sunrise, and may be seen on clear mornings shortly before sunrise.

Venus is an evening star, and sets rather more than three hours after the Sun until the latter part of June, when the interval begins to shorten up a little. The planet continually increases its apparent distance from the Sun throughout the period, but its motion eastward along the ecliptic carries it to a region of smaller declination than that of the Sun, and this, toward the close of the period, more than counterbalances the gain in distance as far as it affects the interval between the setting of the Sun and the planet. *Venus* will reach its greatest distance from the Sun early in July.

Mars passed opposition with the Sun on March 28th, and is now beginning to increase its distance from the Earth. On May 1st it sets about 3:30 A. M., on June 1st at 1:30, and at a little before midnight on July 1st. It is therefore still in fine position for evening observation. At the beginning of May it is in the eastern part of the constellation *Leo,* not far from *Denebola,* and is slowly retrograding. This westward motion is small,—only about as much as the Moon's apparent diameter,—and continues until May 10th. The planet then resumes its eastward motion, slowly at first, but by the end of June it will be about 13° east and south of its position on May 10th. In going eastward it will follow a path a little to the south of that pursued in its westward progress, and at the end of June it will be about 4° south of the position it occupied at the end of March. The path of the planet as seen from the Sun crosses the Earth's orbit-plane on June 24th, and the variation of distance from the ecliptic is most strongly marked at this time of node passage. This accounts for the fact noted above that the westward path is so far south of the eastward. The distance of the planet from the Earth in millions of miles varies from 66, on May 1st, to 84 on June 1st, and 104 on July 1st. On June 15th it is at about the same distance from the Earth as the Earth's mean distance from the Sun. The planet will still be very bright, but at the end of June its brightness will be only about one third of that at opposition.

Jupiter is a morning star, but it rises earlier, at 3 A. M. on May 1st, at 1 A. M. on June 1st, and shortly after 11 P. M. on July 1st. It is in the constellation *Pisces,* and moves about 7° eastward and 3° northward, the greater part of the distance being traversed in May. Toward the end of June the motion becomes much more slow, and it will cease about the middle of July.

Saturn rises shortly after 1 A. M. on May 1st, at about 11:20 P. M. on June 1st, and at about 9:16 P. M. on July 1st. It is therefore gradually getting to a position for evening observation. It is in the constellation *Capricorn,* and moves slowly eastward until May 20th. It then begins to retrograde, so that its position at the end of June is about 1° west of the position at the beginning of May. As seen in the telescope, the rings are not as widely open as they were a year ago, the ratio of minor to major axis being less than one third.

Uranus comes to opposition with the Sun on June 15th, and is therefore, during that month, above the horizon nearly all night. It is still in the southern extension of *Ophiuchus* between *Sagittarius* and *Scorpio,* and moves about 2° westward during May and June. Unfortunately there is no bright star near it to afford an easy means of identification.

Neptune, too faint to be seen except with a good telescope, is in the western sky in the evening during May, and reaches conjunction with the Sun on June 23d. On May 15th *Venus* passes it 3° to the north.

(FORTY-THIRD) AWARD OF THE DONOHOE COMET-MEDAL.

The Comet-Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has been awarded to M. MICHEL GIACOBINI, astronomer, Nice Observatory, France, for his discovery of an unexpected comet on December 2, 1902.

The Committee on the Comet-Medal:

W. W. CAMPBELL,
CHAS. BURCKHALTER,
WM. M. PIERSON.

(FORTY-FOURTH) AWARD OF THE DONOHOE COMET-MEDAL.

The Comet-Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has been awarded to M. MICHEL GIACOBINI, astronomer, Nice Observatory, France, for his discovery of an unexpected comet on January 15, 1903.

The Committee on the Comet-Medal:

W. W. CAMPBELL,
CHAS. BURCKHALTER,
WM. M. PIERSON.